

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 SAJ-01 IO-10 SAM-01 OMB-01

ACDA-05 BIB-01 /087 W

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P R 090832Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3437

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 0307

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: PEKING STRESSING PROSPECT FOR WORLD WAR

REF: HONG KONG 200

1. PEOPLE'S DAILY JANUARY 8 CLEARLY EXPRESSED PEKING'S PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF A NEW WAR THREAT (REFTEL). A SIGNED ARTICLE (JEN KU-PING) WARNS THAT SHARPENING RIVALRY BETWEEN THE SUPER-POWERS "IS ENGENDERING THE THREAT OF A NEW WAR. MEANWHILE, A REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION IS ALSO DEVELOPING." THIS, OF COURSE, PUBLICLY TURNS ON ITS HEAD THE HITHERTO CHINESE WORLD OUTLOOK BASED ON MAO'S FAMOUS MAY 20, 1970 STATEMENT THAT "THE DANGER OF A NEW WORLD WAR STILL EXISTS...BUT REVOLUTION IS THE MAIN TREND IN THE WORLD TODAY."

2. THE ARTICLE CLOSES BY WARNING THAT IF THE SUPERPOWERS "DARE
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TO LAUNCH A NEW WORLD WAR," THE PEOPLE WILL RESIST AND THE

SUPERPOWERS WILL BE "BURIED IN THE RAGING FLAMES OF REVOLUTION." THIS APPEARS TO BE A DIRECT PREDICTION THAT NEITHER SUPERPOWER COULD WIN AND THE PEOPLE(UNDOUBTEDLY LED BY THE PRC) WOULD EMERGE VICTORIOUS.

3. CHINESE MEDIA ATTENTION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW WAR THREAT HAS BEEN SHAPING UP IN PROVINCIAL RADIO BROADCAST OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS (PEKING AND HUNAN JANUARY 1; INNER MONGOLIA JANUARY 6; KANSU JANUARY 5; FUKIEN JANUARY 6) IN CONNECTION WITH THE STUDY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, AN ACTIVITY WHICH ITSELF SPRANG UP ONLY RECENTLY (HONG KONG 13591). OBVIOUSLY THERE HAS BEEN SOME CENTRAL INSTRUCTION CALLING FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE WORLD SITUATION AND WHICH INCLUDES SOME ASSESSMENT OF A WAR THREAT. WE WOULD HOPE TO GET A CLEARER PICTURE OF WHAT IS INVOLVED AS MEDIA DISCUSSION ADVANCES. WE HAVE NOT NOTED A COMMENTARY WHICH PARTICULARLY PEGS THE THREAT TO ONE AREA OF THE WORLD (ALTHOUGH EUROPE IS NORMALLY DEPICTED AS THE FOCUS OF CONTENTION AND THERE IS AN INCREASING REFERENCE TO THE USE OF OIL AS A WEAPON). THE SOVIETS ARE STILL SOMEWHAT MORE SHARPLY ATTACKED THAN IS THE US, ALTHOUGH, AS WE HAVE BEEN POINTING OUT, THE US IS RAPIDLY GAINING PARITY WITH THE SOVIETS IN MEDIA TREATMENT. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO DOUBT THE SOVIETS REMAIN THE MAIN ENEMY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, WAR, POLITICAL SITUATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK00307
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750008-1081
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750167/aaaacgez.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 HONG KONG 200
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PEKING STRESSING PROSPECT FOR WORLD WAR
TAGS: PFOR, CH, XX, PEOPLES DAILY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006